

## Message Text

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21 11

ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08 SCEM-02

SCI-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 FPC-01 NEA-10 SAJ-01 DRC-01

/177 W

----- 100160

R 281054Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5464

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, ECON, CZ

SUBJ: PETROLEUM PRICES AND AVAILABILITY IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

REF: STATE 229536

1. WORLD PETROLEUM CRUNCH HAS YET TO MAKE ITSELF FELT IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. IN TELEVISED SPEECH ON NOVEMBER 23, MINISTER IN CHARGE OF FEDERAL PRICE OFFICE MICHAL SABOLCIK SPECIFICALLY ASSURED PUBLIC THAT IT COULD CALMLY PROCEED WITH CHRISTMAS SHOPPING WITH NO FEAR OF PRICE INCREASES OF "CONSUMER GOODS SUCH AS FURNITURE AND PETROL." SABOLCIKS

SPEECH WAS INTENDED, AT LEAST IN PART, TO PROVIDE REASSURANCES FOLLOWING MARKED UPSWING IN RETAIL PRICE OF GOLD JEWELLRY, WHICH HE CLAIMED WERE INSTITUTED TO BRING LOCAL PRICES IN LINE WITH THOSE IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES AND PREVENT "SPECULATION BY TOURISTS."

2. YET ANOTHER BIT OF REASSURANCE WAS GIVEN WHEN NOVEMBER 26

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PRESS PROUDLY ANNOUNCED NEW OIL STRIKE WHICH IS PROVIDING FIFTEEN

TONS OF CRUDE DAILY.

3. CZECHOSLOVAK DEPENDENCE ON SOVIET PETROLEUM SUPPLIES IS VIRTUALLY COMPLETE-SOME NINETY-FOUR PERCENT OF CZECHOSLOVAK POL IS OF SOVIET ORIGIN. PRAGUE RUMOR MILL, NORMALLY VERY SENSITIVE TO POTENTIAL OR ACTUAL SHORTAGES OF ALL TYPES, HAS NOT YET REFLECTED ANY CONCERN RE AVAILABILITY OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS.

4. CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT HAS MADE ITS ANNUAL WINTER APPEAL FOR CONSERVATION OF ELECTRICITY, BUT THIS IS MORE LIKELY DUE TO CHRONIC SHORTAGE OF POWER GENERATION EQUIPMENT RATHER THAN ANY FUEL SHORTAGES.  
SHERER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PETROLEUM, CONSERVATION, PRICES, TRADE CONTROLS, ELECTRIC POWER  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 28 NOV 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** cunninfx  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973PRAGUE02732  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** PRAGUE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Line Count:** 74  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION INR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** STATE 229536  
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**Review Authority:** cunninfx  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 06 SEP 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <06-Sep-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <17-Sep-2001 by cunninfx>  
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30 JUN 2005

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